

# NEWS

**Forest Service**

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Department of  
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**Inyo  
National Forest**

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## **PROJECTS ON THE INYO NATIONAL FOREST TO BE FUNDED THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT**

Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch has announced that a number of different projects on the Inyo National Forest have been funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), with money coming directly to the Forest Service to contract or enter into agreements for the work to be accomplished.

The funded Recovery Act projects are central to the creation of jobs and building a better, stronger economy in the future. According to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, these are the types of projects that exemplify President Obama's commitment to sustainability, reducing our environmental footprint, and increasing energy efficiency, while at the same time generating additional tourism and stimulating local economies.

Nine different projects have been funded on the Inyo National Forest, and they are as follows:

- Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center in Lone Pine – parking lot repaving - \$280,000
- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center in Lee Vining – parking lot improvements - \$110,000
- Esmeralda County - road improvement - \$100,000
- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center – heavy maintenance - \$700,000
- Lake Mary Road Bike Trail - \$3,030,000
- Mammoth signage and wayfinding - \$300,000
- Rex Montis Mine – physical safety hazard cleanup - \$20,000
- Mazourka Canyon – fencing project - \$14,000
- Casa Diablo Mine and Black Eagle Mine – wildlife and physical safety hazard mitigation - \$11,000

Nationwide there is a large backlog of maintenance needs for public facilities, including roads and trails. Maintenance needs were identified through extensive studies of public facilities that are needed to support the primary outdoor activities that are best provided on national forests. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act directs the Forest Service to improve, maintain and renovate public and administrative facilities as well maintain roads and trails. Repairs and upgrades to roads, parking lots, mine sites, and visitor centers are intended to improve public safety and access. All of this work is labor-intensive requiring skilled workers to be hired under ARRA. Workers hired under ARRA will accomplish projects that contribute to safe, high quality outdoor experiences for the 178 million people who visit national forests each year.

Please visit [http://fs.usda.gov/economic recovery](http://fs.usda.gov/economic%20recovery) for further information on other Forest Service ARRA projects and related economic recovery, or contact Jeff Marsolais on the Inyo National Forest at (760) 873-2515.

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